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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

17 April 1969

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[Redacted]
Executive Office Building
Room 200
Washington, D.C.

Dear Don,

The draft report entitled "Application of ARGO Material in the Field of Marine Sciences, 1 May 1969", which you recently forwarded to this office for comment, has been reviewed with considerable interest. The members of the Working Group have obviously given considerable thought to the problem with which you tasked them. When one considers that the requirements described in Part III of the draft relate only to the needs of those civilian components of the Government with interests and responsibilities in the field of marine sciences, the variety of specific requirements that might be forwarded to COMIREX and the JRC becomes impressive.

I believe it is obvious to you that those requirements requiring frequencies of coverage of a month or less could not be fulfilled for near real-time operational use with existing systems. At the same time, the draft report does give a measure of what COMIREX and the intelligence community could very well anticipate if the systems discussed are to contribute to the needs of the civilian departments.

You asked that this office suggest any rewording or additions which would seem appropriate from our point of view. Although I have no strong feelings regarding the texts of the Introduction, Part I, Part VII, Part VIII, or Appendix B, I do think the following changes would help to clarify some points. I shall not disturb the text of Part III.

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a. In the Introduction, I believe it would be useful to define "ARGO material". I therefore suggest that in line 5 of the first paragraph of the Introduction the following be inserted before "ARGO": "photography and other sensor data acquired by covert reconnaissance satellites and high-flying reconnaissance aircraft, henceforth referred to as".

b. Where you list the Technical Advisers, "Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation" does not have commas within it.

c. In the eighth line of the first paragraph of Part I, replace "ARGO requirements" by the following insert: "requirements for civilian use that might be fulfilled by the collection systems referred to in this report, henceforth called ARGO requirements, . . .".

d. Change the last sentence of the third paragraph of Part I to read "Hence, certain types of ARGO material of interest to several agencies and products derived from this material, that might be made available publically by proper sanitization and declassification, would be useful to a broad national constituency".

e. I would reword the last sentence of the fourth paragraph of Part I to read "In any event, the ARGO Steering Committee should serve as the focal point for requests from civilian agencies for coverage by covert reconnaissance satellite and aircraft systems in support of ARGO requirements".

f. In the fifth line of the fifth paragraph, I would change "will" to "would".

g. The fourth sentence of the sixth paragraph should be changed to read "Of particular importance are sanitization procedures, and steps should be taken in this regard to increase the authority of those civilian agencies



which intend to use significant amounts of ARGO material but are not members of the U.S. Intelligence Board". This suggestion is made strictly for clarification.

h. In Part VII, I suggest that it would be helpful to underline "research", "planning", and "operational" in the second paragraph. Start the second sentence of the second paragraph as follows: "Usually, responses to a request . . ."

i. In the eleventh line of the second paragraph of Part VII, delete "can only be obtained" and replace with "are needed". In the last sentence of the same paragraph, I would change the word "must" to "would have to" and the verb "will" to "would".

j. In the first sentence of the fourth paragraph of Part VII, instead of "ARGO coverage" it would seem better to say "coverage by covert reconnaissance satellite and aircraft systems".

k. In the first sentence of the fifth paragraph of Part VII, it would seem advisable to delete the word "excess" and to change "product" in line five to "material".

l. In Part VIII, change the second sentence of the first paragraph to read: "In some instances, public release in the forms of medium-scale maps and charts is anticipated. The release to the public of specific announcements, scientific reports, and forecasts, after appropriate review with respect to conformance with security, would be most useful". In the next sentence, replace "obtaining similar material that could serve as" with "insuring". In the next sentence, after "civilian agency" it would seem clearer to continue as follows: "not a member of the U.S. Intelligence Board, to validate sanitization measures undertaken when the agency is using large quantities of ARGO material".

m. Lastly, in the next to the last paragraph of Appendix B, insert "map and chart" after "derived" in the second line, and change the last word "Group" to "Committee".

With regard to the content of Appendix A, when the original ARGO Report was reviewed within CIA, the Special Security Center had no security objection to a liberal interpretation of the dissemination caveat generally referred to as the "must know" caveat associated with the provisions of [redacted] (ARC-M-82). The Special Security Center allowed the ARGO Report to be made available to individuals with T-KH clearances; nevertheless, we feel that adherence to the "need-to-know" concept should be strictly observed when considering for inclusion in other papers the listing of characteristics of the systems as given in Appendix A. We understand that [redacted] is ascertaining from the NRO whether or not the dissemination caveat referred to above is, in fact, required. We shall follow DIA's advice to you in this matter.

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Sincerely,

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Chairman, COMIREX

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